

A Merry Christmas
AND
A Joyous New Year
WITH
Our Thanks for Your
Holiday Trade.

W. A. BRUNNER.

ALMA HARNESS SHOP

Harness and Horse Furnishing Goods of all Kinds. Trunks, Bags and Suit Cases.

C. A. Ogle & Son, 212 E. Superior Street

A good warm Horse Blanket warms the heart of every horse toward his master. We carry a fine stock at reasonable prices. A fine stock of Horse Collars.

A Merry Christmas to our patrons.

WHEELER SCHOOL NOTES

(Intended for last week)

Glen Hillock was absent Thursday. The High school has challenged the Merrill High school for a series of debates the first one to take place early in the new year.

Miss Blackman is helping us with our Christmas music.

Margaret Robbins was absent Tuesday.

Mr. Dunbar gave his bimonthly talk to the school Friday, Dec. 11. He used as his text the words of Solomon, "I have put off my coat, how shall I put it on?" He likened the coat to our good habits that once put off are hard to regain.

Miss Mamie Winn, a former teacher in our school, visited here Thursday.

Alice Watson and Henry Mischler were absent Monday.

We are very proud of our clean sash curtains.

Mazie Coleman was the third person in the High room who was neither absent nor tardy during the fall term.

Miss Maxham held a cleaning bee at the schoolhouse Saturday, so spotless desks and floor greeted us Monday morning.

Paul Schatzer won the multiplication contest in the Third grade.

Carl, Kyle and Norman Yourey have entered the fourth, third and first grades, respectively.

Alfreda Barnes is on the sick list.

Murle Hillock was absent two days last week on account of sickness.

ST. LOUIS NOTES

(Intended for last week)

Mike Zigallia of Elwell was in St. Louis Sunday.

Wm. W. Boise and son Arlie were in Alma Monday on business.

H. Tiffany of Shepherd was in St. Louis Monday on business.

R. Fixall of Detroit was in St. Louis Monday on business.

Representative N. Smith is in Lansing this week on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lettick will

will visit until after the holidays.

Mrs. N. Colburn is on the sick list, leave for Chicago Tuesday where they

Mrs. Frank Cameron leaves for Detroit Saturday where she intends to spend the holidays with her husband.

High school will close Friday until after the holidays and a fine program has been arranged for that day.

C. O. Eastman and wife of Wheeler spent Monday with Mrs. A. E. Boice.

Mrs. Grace Delnie of Saginaw was in St. Louis Monday on business.

Mrs. Blanche Kemp was in Saginaw Saturday on business.

Mrs. Elmer Bigelow and children of Kent City are spending a couple of months with her mother, Mrs. Walter Graham.

Mell Robison sold his house and lot Monday to L. D. Knash. He intends to move in April.

Mrs. H. Giddings, who has been very ill, is not improving fast.

The Rebekah fair ended Saturday. The proceeds were about \$60, and the money will be used by the I. O. O. F. for improvements on their new hall.

Mrs. Barstow fell and broke her arm Thursday. She is doing as well as could be expected.

The store formerly owned by Boice & Hartenbourg was sold Monday to H. Tiffany of Shepherd. He intends to move the goods to Shepherd where he now owns a store. The people of St. Louis are sorry to see Mr. Boice go out of business as he is a well respected citizen. The hope is expressed that he will soon start up in business again.

Mr. Bert Reams and Gertrude Smith, both popular clerks of Tyroler's store, were married Wednesday by Rev. Ford. They had their rooms all furnished and ready for housekeeping. We wish them a long and happy wedded life.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ellison of Riverdale spent Sunday with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Dubay.

Mrs. Rena Hodson of Owosso died at her mother's home, Mrs. F. Parrish, Saturday, after a long illness, of Bright's disease. The funeral was held Monday and burial was in Oak Grove cemetery.

Christmas Sermon In Words of One Syllable.

An innovation in sermons was the one delivered by the Rev. A. Smythe Palmer, M. A., D. D., vicar of Holy Trinity church, Warrington, England, on the birth of Christ. This sermon is entirely in words of one syllable.

HE speaks the mind of God who tells us and would have us know what God thinks, for if it were not for him we could not know at all. "God did so love the world that he gave his own, one Son, to be born at this time for us, to the end that all who trust in him should not die, but have the life which lasts for aye." He came and "dwelt with us" on earth that men might see with their own eyes at least one pure life, lived free from sin. He was made "flesh of our flesh" and "bone of our bone." "God with us" in truth, but man no less, true man and true God—a child like one of our own. That is the strange thing, so deep that no man, wise as he may be, can quite take it in. He was to be "God with us," but at the same time "a worm and no man"—less than a man in the grief and pain and scorn which he bore.

The texts take our thoughts back to the birth of this day. It is a birthday for the whole world to keep. All men can say: "To us this child is born; to us God gave this son of his love. I have my share in it." And so we are all glad of heart and make our church gay with plants and flowers and sing our hymns of joy and keep the feast with gifts and good fare. It is the birth day of all our hopes. Now, it was good news of great joy that the host from on high brought to the herds who kept watch on their sheep in the fields. And it is still so. For us, as much as for them, was born in that small town one strong to save. "Which is Christ the Lord."

It is old news now, and I fear it falls on our dull, cold hearts like some old tale of long past time which has lost its charm. Oh, let us not shut our ears to it as some of those first men did! When he came to his own his own would not take him in. They said, "There is no room for him here"—no room in the inn when he came to it. It was not an inn, you must know, like one of ours, but a mere bare court where those on the road might rest—a "khan" they call it in the east.

Does it not seem to us a sad and a strange sight that a young babe should be shut out in the cold night—God in want of house room? A poor place, at best, as rude and rough as we can well think, and such as it was, quite full with the crowd who had come first. The host of the inn sends them off. He tells them there is a cave at the back of the inn where the beasts are kept; they may find rest there, if they will. That cave, where the birth of all time took place, is still shown in the rock. A great church built there marks the spot. Then, poor, mean and cold, it was the best place he could find to lay his head.

"The fox has his hole and the bird of the air her nest, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head." So, in that cave in the rock, the stall of the ox and the ass, in the crib out of which they ate their hay, the newborn babe was laid. Just think what all this means—God made flesh, God born as man in this world of ours, that he might find a way to bring back man to God! He hid his might, and men hid their face from him. None but the herds who kept their sheep saw or knew of it till they fell to the ground in a great blaze of light, and a host of bright ones in the sky sang such a song as no choir on earth has sung, which gave praise to God on high, "and on earth peace, good will to men." Those herds had faith to go and seek the child of whom they were told. They found him in the crib, and they saw more than their eyes could see. They knew that in that weak child was the power of God to save. And so these good men, when they had bowed down, went back to their flock, struck with awe, and "gave praise to God for all they had heard and seen."

Shall we do less? Shall we not, too, go home and give thanks on our part, with joy for what we have heard? And in all our joy let us find room for the one guest who should not be left out—room in our hearts for him whose word is life.

THE BLAZING YULE LOG.

It Holds Precedence Over the Christmas Tree in England.

The Christmas tree was rarely seen in England until made popular by the German husband of Queen Victoria, and while it is universal there at the present time, it is the Yule log and the mistletoe that hold the center of attraction. Long before England became a Christian country the Yule log was burned in honor of a pagan deity at the winter solstice, and the infectious spirit of cheer and good will which prevailed at that time survived when Christianity spread abroad.

The festivities in England begin with the lighting of the Yule log on Christmas eve. In many parts of the country the whole family, including servants, gather about the hearth and "beguile the long evening with rural games, legendary jokes and oft told Christmas tales." One of the oldest customs observed in England is the singing of Christmas carols from house to house by Christmas carolers. Some of the carols sung today are at least 400 years old.

Christmas Bells.

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old, familiar carols play
And, wild and sweet,
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men!
—Longfellow.

Alma Grain & Lumber Co.

Any modern mill can make good flour.

Alma Bread Flour
is Better

Ask your grocer for it.

Alma Grain & Lumber Co.

WE WISH to offer our thanks to our patrons for their business during the past year and to wish them a prosperous new year and a Merry Christmas.

ALMA GARAGE.

W. A. BORTON, Proprietor.

TO OUR PATRONS =
Merry Christmas
and **Thank You!**

Brown's Bazaar

Alma, Union Phone 48 Mich.

N. W. NEW HAVEN

(Intended for last week)

A birthday party was given in honor of Mr. Henry Hetler Monday and a large crowd was present to help him remember it. The day was spent in playing cards. At noon a bounteous dinner was served to the company and all did justice to the same. About 32 were present. They were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Simon Worden and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Philo Davis and son Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fiegel and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pratt and daughter, Hazel and sons Howard and Donald, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mikesel and daughter, Mrs. Dora Shepherd and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Will Davis and daughter Laura; also Fred and David Davis. We all wish he may live to see many more such birthdays.

John Pratt is helping William Barnes pull stumps.

Mr. and Mrs. Philo Davis attended the birthday party at Hank Hattus.

Mr. Joe Culey and Lisa Smyth were married last week. They expect to make their future home in Sumner.

Thomas Connerton made a business trip to Ithaca Thursday.

Andrew Frazer and Albert Plank made a business trip to Ithaca last week.

Mr. P. Davis was a business caller in Riverdale.

Mrs. John Ferris spent Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Jobe Wolford.

Will Henry is working for Willie Rank. He expects to be there the rest of the winter. Mr. F. Davis was a business caller in Ithaca Saturday.

Mr. William Standash and John Stoffs are thrashing cloverseed.

Emory Mulford and wife were in Ithaca on business.

Jos. Cooley of Sumner was in Ithaca Saturday.

Mrs. Rose McGreaner of Sumner was an Ithaca visitor Thursday.

Mrs. Ida Wiles spent the past week

at Alma with her sister, Mrs. J. D. Helman.

Mr. Frank Cooley spent Saturday in Ithaca.

Hugh McKinstry spent Sunday with Claud Stoffs.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hattus came Saturday to spend a few days with the latter's brother, Philo Davis.

John Pratt and wife spent Sunday with Philo Davis.

There will be a Christmas tree and program at the old school house Tuesday.

GIFT LADEN PINATAS.

Unique Holiday Felices Which Delight Children of Mexico.

About ten days before Christmas in the City of Mexico the puestas in the Calle de San Diego begin to grow festive with evergreens, flowers, bright berries and other greens brought in from the mountains by the pisanos to delight the eye and tempt the purses of the promenaders. In the booths of the neighboring Calle de San Juan are displayed fruits, nuts and candies, and still others offer angels, shepherds, sheep, mules, oxen and other objects suggestive of the Saviour's birth.

Probably the greatest attraction for the Mexican children are the pinatas. Peddlers may be seen sauntering along the streets carrying long poles which are strung with varicolored pinatas of every description, draped with tinsel. These represent flowers, fruits, animals and even men and women, and each contains a jar filled with goodies. They range in price from 25 centavos to several dollars, according to their degree of elaborateness. The pinata is suspended from the ceiling or hung in the courtyard. All the family gather around it. A child is blindfolded, turned around several times, then given a stick and told to find and break the pinata. If he fails after three trials to locate it he surrenders to the next in turn, and so on until a lucky blow shatters the pinata and the contents fall, to be scrambled for.

Barney Oldfield Breaks World's Non-Stop Road Race Record in a Maxwell

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT WOODWARD AVENUE DETROIT, MICH.

120 P. M. 1914

LOS ANGELES CALIF NOV 28-14

MR. WALTER E. FLANDERS, PRESIDENT
MAXWELL MOTOR COMPANY, INCORPORATED
DETROIT MICH.

IN ALL MY EXPERIENCE IN THE RACING GAME, NEVER HAVE I HAD AS SATISFACTORY A MOUNT AS THE MAXWELL NUMBER "64" WHICH I DROVE IN THE CORONA ROAD RACE THANKSGIVING DAY WITH PRACTICALLY NO PREPARATION IN A CAR WITH WHICH I WAS ABSOLUTELY UNFAMILIAR. I WENT THE ENTIRE 300 MILES WITHOUT A SINGLE STOP, THEREBY ESTABLISHING A NEW WORLD'S NON STOP ROAD RACE RECORD AND FINISHING IN SECOND PLACE. THE MAXWELL CAR BEHAVED IN PERFECT SHAPE, RAN COOL AND SMOOTH THROUGH THE ENTIRE RACE AND HAD PLENTY OF SPEED FOR ANY RACE. I HAD IT DOPED THAT 85 MILES PER HOUR, WOULD WIN THE RACE; THAT WAS THE REASON I AVERAGED ONLY 85-5MILES. CAR I DROVE WAS THE MOST CONSISTENT PERFORMER IN THE RACE. TIRES SHOWED PRACTICALLY NO WEAR. USED 23 GALLONS OF GASOLINE - 3 GALLONS OF OIL. NO WATER.

BARNEY OLDFIELD.

518PM.

Barney Oldfield has driven dozens of different makes of racing cars. His unqualified endorsement of the Maxwell Racer he drove in the Corona Race—speaks for itself.

SEE THE NEW 1915 MAXWELL AT
Frank F. Smith, Resident Dealer North Half Gratiot Co
PROSPECT AVE, ALMA, MICHIGAN